

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe*

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## Your Pastimes

By Walter E. Myer

WINSTON Churchill has written a book called "Painting as Pastime." Mr. Churchill, however, writes in the book about a variety of subjects. He uses painting merely as an illustration of hobbies—why we need them, and how we may develop them. A hobby has been defined as "almost anything one likes to do in his spare time"—and almost any activity can be a hobby.

What good does it do to cultivate hobbies? Listen to what England's great war leader has to say:

"A man can wear out a particular part of his mind by continually using it and tiring it, just the same as he can wear out the elbows of his coat. There is, however, this difference between the living cells of the brain and inanimate articles: one cannot mend the frayed elbows of a coat by rubbing the sleeves or shoulders; but the tired parts of the mind can be rested and strengthened, not merely by rest, but by using other parts."

If you get tired at your work as a student, or, later, in your vocational life, there are several things that you may do. You may rest or sleep. Sleep, says Shakespeare, "knits up the raveled sleeve of care," and simple rest may be very helpful.

But rest is not enough. If one is tired or worried, he needs to get his mind on something very different from what he has been doing. He needs to become interested in the new activity so that he will cease being tired and so that his mind will get a complete rest. We get relief from hard work by doing something else.

This is where hobbies come into the picture. Mr. Churchill says that "to be really happy and really safe, one ought to have two or three hobbies." If one discovers a few hobbies when he is young, he will find it easier to rest from his work and he will not be so easily bored.

There are hundreds of hobbies and there are thousands of people, young and old, working at them. Many books

describing hobbies have been written. A young person may also learn a great deal about hobbies through the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other organizations.



Walter E. Myer

It is a good thing, Mr. Churchill thinks, for one to choose a hobby while he is still young. In this way he will get pleasure from it as he goes along and he will be storing up pleasures for the rainy days he will meet later in life.

Mr. Churchill warns that a hobby cannot be adopted and put to use quickly. One cannot decide in a hurry to add this or that to his interests. He must prepare for his hobbies almost as carefully as he prepares for his vocation. He should be certain that they will be of lasting, not just fleeting, pleasure and interest. Any time and care spent in developing worthwhile hobbies, however, will pay tremendous dividends in happiness and contentment during your entire life.



BICYCLES are part of the Swedish scene. Most adults own them and use them in going to and from work, as well as for recreation.

## Sweden Stays Aloof

People of That Nation See Dangers of Russian Communism, but Refuse to Join in Atlantic Defense Group

MANY Americans find it hard today to understand why Sweden stays out of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The organization was developed by free nations of the west to build a common defense against Communist Russia, yet Sweden has refrained from joining fellow democracies in a military alliance. That northern country has chosen to play its hand alone in the struggle for survival by the free nations of the world.

At the same time, Sweden sees the danger of Communist aggression, for she is geographically too close to Russia for comfort. Her narrow land area in northwestern Europe stretches northward for nearly a thousand miles, to the Arctic Circle and above it. In the Arctic region only small bits of Norway and Finland separate Sweden from Russia. The Swedish east coast, on the Gulf of Bothnia, is barely an hour by air away from Russia.

Sweden is very definitely a democracy and is against communism, which seeks to destroy democratic freedom. The Swedish parliament, dating back to about 1435, is one of the oldest in the world. While a king still heads the nation, the people hold the power to govern through elected officials. There is a Communist Party in that country, but it has lost membership

and influence as the danger of Russian aggression has increased.

The great majority of Swedes are determined to keep their free, democratic way of life. They have very strong ties with the west, and they want to maintain them. Swedes and Englishmen have known each other since at least the ninth century, and a deep friendship has grown out of their long relationship.

A small band of Swedes established the first firm ties with America in 1638, when they founded a colony in the vicinity of the present city of Wilmington, Delaware. Those Swedes made a unique gift to other pioneers—the "know-how" for building the log cabin.

Sweden signed her first commercial treaty with us in 1783, starting a business relationship that continues today. Hundreds of thousands of people from there immigrated to this country in the 19th century, and these Swedish Americans and their children have served to keep alive the feeling of kinship between the United States and Sweden. Through its relationships with us, England, and other free nations, that country holds an important position in the western world, even though it is not a member of the North Atlantic Treaty.

(Concluded on page 2)

## Debate Continues Over Food Prices

Who Is Better Off Under Control Program—Farmers or the City People?

THE American people are now in the midst of a big argument as to which sections of our population are the best off economically. Various groups are accusing one another of getting too large a share of the national income. An important part of the quarrel is between farmers and city people. Factory workers and office employees, forced to pay high food prices, insist that the farmers are receiving too much for their products. Farm people deny that this is the case.

The federal government has become deeply involved in the dispute since it has undertaken to control prices and wages. Many city people claim that farm prices are not being controlled as rigidly by the government as are industrial wages. Farmers, on the other hand, deny that they are being treated any better than other groups of the population.

This dispute, in one form or another, has frequently arisen over a long period of time. In order to understand it clearly, we need to go back a number of years.

Most economists agree that farmers, during much of the time since World War I, have not received a fair share of the national income. Even during the 1920's, when most other groups of our population were enjoying prosperity, agricultural products were selling for low prices.

The main reason for this situation was that the farmers were at that time producing far more than our nation could use or could sell abroad. There was little that these farmers themselves could do about their predicament. If, as is true in some lines of manufacturing, an industry is largely controlled by a few big com-

(Concluded on page 6)



YOUNG FARMER with his prize-winning pet rooster

# Sweden Today

(Concluded from page 1)

Sweden almost certainly would fight if attacked by Russia and she probably would fight well. Her army of at least 700,000 men, when fully mobilized, is generally rated as one of the best all-round fighting machines in Europe today. The Swedish Air Force of about 1,000 planes is probably the strongest maintained by Europe's free nations, except for that of Great Britain. Under a big rearmament program, Sweden is steadily increasing her military power.

Unless directly attacked, Sweden presumably would not fight if other western nations and Russia became involved in war. The country is determined, in the words of Socialist Prime Minister Tage Erlander, to keep out of military alliances with great powers. Sweden wants to follow a neutral course; for this reason, she has kept out of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization even though her sympathies and interests are with the western world.

It is necessary to know a bit of history to understand the Swedish policy of neutrality, by which that land has managed to keep out of wars for 137 years.

Sweden, at various times in history, was a strong military nation. Swedish warriors, in the years from 800 to 1050 A.D., sailed across the Baltic Sea and penetrated deep into the heart of Russia. Those early Swedes probably organized and ruled the first Russian state; they were called *Rusi* and from that Swedish word, historians say, modern Russia got its name.

In the 17th century, Sweden was a world power holding large colonial areas, including Finland. Largely because of losses in war with Russia, Sweden's colonial holdings vanished and her "era of greatness" ended rather abruptly in 1814.



GUSTAF ADOLF, Sweden's king, and his wife, Queen Louise

From that time on, the country developed its doctrine of neutrality. By keeping out of military alliances and remaining at peace, it was able to build up a world trade and a comfortable way of life for its people. Today, the nation of 7 million people is one of the richest in the world despite some inflation and other economic difficulties since World War II.

From her huge forests, Sweden gets wood that she makes into pulp and paper, modern furniture, and prefabricated houses which are sold to other nations. Sweden has immense deposits of high grade iron ore. She makes ships, motors, milk separators for farmers, high quality steel scissors



SWEDEN'S POSITION, north of Europe's main battlefields, has helped to keep the country out of war for 137 years

and knives, and many types of glassware that are in great demand everywhere. Along with its numerous industries, the country has an extensive agriculture that can just about supply its needs for food.

The average income per capita in Sweden is about \$900 a year, as against \$1,453 in this country. The difference is not as great as it appears, however. Because of a generally lower scale of prices, Swedes enjoy a standard of living about as high as that in the United States and much higher than that in most other nations of the world.

There is a housing shortage in Sweden, but most people there live in good houses and apartments, many of which are very modern in styling. Schools and hospitals are excellent. Slums are absent from cities like the capital, Stockholm.

Defense costs, causing the government to curtail building programs, are largely responsible for the present Swedish housing shortage. In 1905, when government lending for housing was a comparatively new thing, Sweden started big-scale building. In the period up to 1935, government loans helped to finance more than 80,000 houses in farming areas alone. A new housing program is now under way.

In many ways, life in Sweden resembles ours. Swedes trade in American-type department stores, go to the movies often, eat hot dogs with mustard during the winter, and lap up ice cream in the summer. They read modern newspapers that resemble ours. In general, they enjoy all the comforts that we do with one exception—the automobile. Many more Americans than Swedes have cars. Bicycles are used extensively in that country by people of all ages both for transportation and for recreation.

Government social welfare programs are widespread in Sweden. Even the king is entitled to benefits, which include medical care, unemployment insurance, and old-age pensions. The government operates railways and some industries. However, private owners operate at least 90 per cent of the nation's industry as a whole, and they engage in American-style compe-

tition for business. There is thus a combination in Sweden of both government and individuals in business, which Swedes call *the middle way* of democracy.

For the comfortable life they have built, most Swedes give a great deal of credit to their policy of neutrality which has permitted them to work in peace. While the policy has kept them out of war, it has not prevented Swedes from helping free nations in time of crisis.

When Russia attacked Finland in 1940, for example, Sweden sent weapons, food, and other help to the Finnish neighbor. Sweden permitted volunteers to organize a corps to fight with the Finns. When Nazi Germany occupied Denmark and Norway in World War II, Sweden sent food and clothing to these two countries. She protected refugees who fled from these lands to her territory. Toward the end of the war, Sweden helped to train

a Norwegian police-army for action in the liberation of Norway.

Under pressure from Nazi Germany, Sweden had to carry on trade with that country. She sent the Germans ball bearings, important in armament manufacture, and other industrial materials. Sweden had to make some bitter concessions to Germany, too, including permission to let Nazi troops cross Swedish territory on several occasions.

Yet, despite the constant threat of getting into trouble with Germany, Sweden also sent aid to Britain. Among other items, she smuggled ball bearings to England. Short of getting into war themselves, the Swedes tried to give as much aid as they felt they could to the free nations.

When negotiations for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization began in 1949, Sweden undertook to continue her policy of remaining neutral while helping the free world. She concluded that the best way to do this was for Denmark and Norway to join her in a defensive alliance. The alliance, said the Swedes, would be a natural one among neighbors and would certainly be to the advantage of the west. At the same time, it would permit Sweden to keep her old policy of staying out of big-power military groups.

Many American leaders were opposed to the Swedish idea. Their reasoning was that all free nations should make common cause in time of danger. Denmark and Norway conferred with Sweden at length, but they chose finally to go into the Atlantic group of nations. Sweden was thus left alone.

Not all Swedes agree with the decision of their government to keep to its isolated neutrality. A number of leading Swedes regularly urge the government to join the west, but so far the majority of people still seem to cling to the hope that they can avoid war by refusing to enter into big power military alliances. They think there is a chance that neutrality can work once more. Maybe, the Swedes reason, war will skirt their country as it has done for the past 137 years.

So long as that chance exists, it appears likely that Sweden will stick to neutrality, while continuing to build strong forces for defense, if attacked.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE

Postmaster: "I'm sorry, but I can't cash this money order for you unless you have some identification. Have you some friend in camp?"  
Soldier: "Not me. I'm the camp's bugler."

Man (to psychiatrist): "My wife has developed an inferiority complex. What can I do to keep her that way?"

Poet: "I put my whole mind in that poem."  
Cad: "Blank verse, I suppose."



SOLD IN SATURDAY EVENING POST  
"You're wanted in the office"

People are funny. If you tell a man that there are 270,693,258,406 stars in the universe, he'll believe you. But if a sign says "Fresh Paint," that same man has to find out for himself.

"Women aren't very strong, are they?"  
"Are you kidding? They can put a lid on a fruit jar so it takes a man 20 minutes to get it open."

Daughter: "Dad, why do you insist on my singing when Joe Bimley calls?"  
Dad: "I don't like the fellow, and yet I hate to tell him to go."

An anxious father, failing to hear from his son in college for more than a month, wrote the president:  
"I trust my son is not sick, but if he has been, I hope to hear he's improving."  
Back came this answer: "Your son is not sick—neither is he improving."

Customer: "When I bought this cat you said it was splendid for mice, but he won't even go near them."  
Clerk: "Well, isn't that splendid for the mice?"



## Magazines and Newspapers

"4-H in Europe," editorial in *Dallas Morning News*.

Here's something new—4-H Clubs in Europe. They have been started under the Marshall Plan. Austria has 1,000 clubs, says the magazine *Popular Economics* published by New York University.

There is a fine potential in spreading 4-H Club work among European youth. A 4-H youth, for instance, raises a pig from a baby to market size. 4-H teaches him that pig is his—not the commissar's. He raised it. When he markets it, the profit is his. Stalin and his successors won't get very far if 100 million European youth on farms learn free enterprise at first hand.

"The Girls Get Ready to Serve," by Michael Clarke, *Collier's*.

The women of the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps are playing an important part in the military services in the present emergency. Depending on how the global situation develops, they may eventually be a lot more numerous than their older sisters were in the services in World War II. At present there are more than 19,000 women in the four branches.

Recruiting in all services is easier now than in World War II. First, the women have proved they can do excellent jobs in many military positions, and the public's attitude has changed. Second, a majority of the women who were in service during the last war liked what they did, where they went, and what they saw. They have been good publicity agents for the services.

"The Stalemate in Local Taxes," by Arthur W. Hepner, *Nation's Business*.

American cities are struggling hard these days to get along. The demands for new civic services multiply daily as old reliable tax sources to finance them run dry. The federal and state governments are reserving for themselves so many tax sources that the cities have a hard time raising money for their own local needs.

With cities having to depend mostly on property taxes for their income, they are turning more and more to state and federal governments for financial help. This, however, means that the cities lose their freedom of using the money in just the way they desire.

What is the solution? Experts on municipal government agree that cities must have more opportunity for local tax collecting. They believe that the federal government can afford to loosen its stranglehold and relinquish to cities taxes such as those on luxuries, admissions, and amusements.



ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY. By matching the numbers on this map with the ones on the drawing below, you can see the improvements that are suggested.

### River-Lake Project

## St. Lawrence Seaway

WILL President Truman succeed where five Presidents have failed? This question arises in connection with Mr. Truman's request that Congress approve the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project. During the past 35 years, each of the nation's Chief Executives has asked the lawmakers to set up a plan for opening the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River to ocean-going vessels. Each failed to secure action.

Nature created a continuous waterway in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence chain, but she put obstacles along the way—waterfalls, rapids, and shallow channels. Some of these obstacles have been removed. The seaway project would eliminate the rest. It also includes plans for a giant power development to provide electricity for farms and factories in the area. The entire program would probably take five years to complete and would cost approximately 800 million dollars.

According to plans, both Canada and the United States would use the waterway and the electricity that was generated. They would also share in the cost of the work. It is thought that part of the amount spent could be recovered through toll charges and through the selling of electricity. Canada has long been in favor of the project and has already finished some of the work on her side of the proposed seaway.

The Great Lakes sections of both countries are busy industrial and agricultural areas. To reach distant markets their goods go by train or part way by boat and part by train. Either method is more costly than a straight haul by boat would be.

The chief supporters of the waterway are the people who live in the Great Lakes area. Direct access to the ocean, they say, would save them millions of dollars, both on the goods they send out and on many materials they buy from other parts of the world.

They also want the electricity that new dams would generate.

Opponents of the St. Lawrence project include the railways which might lose traffic, seaports such as Boston and New York that might be adversely affected, and power companies that object to government ownership of hydroelectric installations.

Strong arguments are made for and against the St. Lawrence plan. Persons who oppose it say:

"A St. Lawrence waterway is impractical at any time, since the river is blocked by ice during part of the year. It is particularly impractical today, when war threatens, because it could be put out of working order by one well-placed bomb."

"Only the Great Lakes states would benefit from the project, yet everyone would contribute to its cost through taxes. Longshoremen in New York, miners in Pennsylvania, and farmers in Kansas would be paying for something that would actually harm them a great deal."

Arguments for the project are these: "An ocean route to the heart of North America would benefit the entire nation. Transportation costs would be lowered on many items that go to people in the interior states. Production in the Great Lakes area would be increased, an advantage to everyone in times like these."

"The waterway would cement relations between the U. S. and Canada, and it would give the U. S. a direct link with iron ore deposits in Labrador, Newfoundland, and Quebec. These deposits will be increasingly important to us as our own resources dwindle."

"Admittedly, the waterway might be bombed during a war, but our railways and seaports may also be attacked. Yet we do not close these facilities. Admittedly, too, ice would block the channel in the winter, but traffic during the rest of the year would be extremely heavy."

## Readers Say—

In a recent issue of your magazine, you published an article in which Mr. Paul Banfield gave his opinions. I disagree with Mr. Banfield in regard to the drafting of teachers. I believe that teachers of proper age and physical condition should be drafted.

After all, if we start exempting people who do not directly affect the national defense effort, sooner or later everyone would be exempt. The argument that there would be a shortage of teachers is not a very good one because most teachers are too old for the draft.

KATHLEEN NORRIS,  
Pratt, Kansas.

★ ★ ★

I agree that Congress should allow the President to send troops wherever he thinks necessary. After all, precious time is consumed while Congress frets over technicalities.

EVELYN MEYER,  
Richmond, Virginia.

★ ★ ★

In one of your recent articles you discussed the question: Should President Truman be allowed to send American soldiers to fight overseas without the permission of Congress? We have found out that Presidents did this in the past. But during such times as these, when the future of our country depends on such decisions, I think that all American citizens through their representatives in Congress, should have a say in the matter, not just the President alone.

JOAN SEIBOLD,  
Richmond, Virginia.

★ ★ ★

I thoroughly agree on lowering the voting age to 18. I believe that we, the high school boys and girls, are "growing up" faster than we did a few years ago.

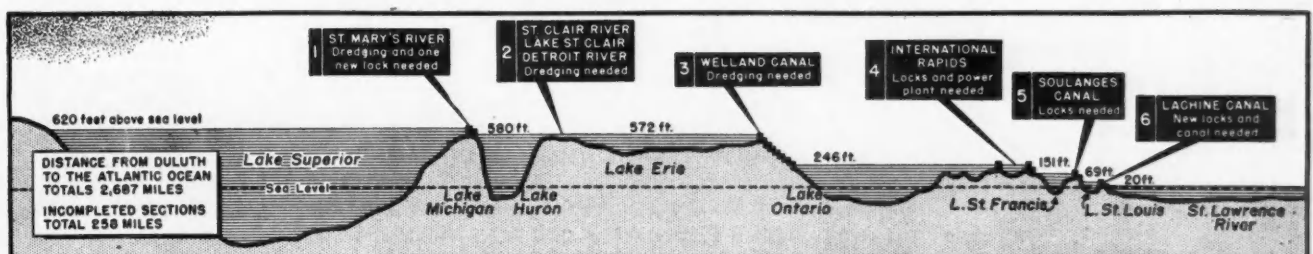
Shouldn't we help choose the leaders who will guide our nation? We should have the right to vote. It would give us a deeper sense of responsibility.

FAITH KOLENDA,  
Saginaw, Michigan.

★ ★ ★

I definitely disagree with those people who are in favor of lowering the voting age to 18. The majority of 18-year-olds are not mature in their thinking and can be very easily influenced by teachers, parents, and friends. They lack the ability to look at both sides of a question and if they have heard a good argument on one side they will not bother to find out the opposite view.

A STUDENT,  
Hillsboro, North Dakota.

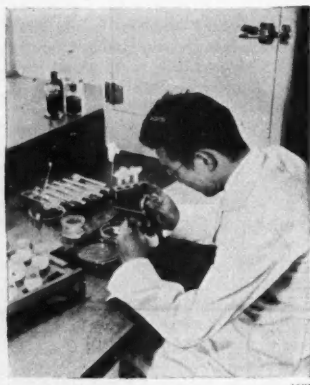


# The Story of the Week

## No Third Term

Unless the newly adopted 22nd Amendment to the federal Constitution is repealed at some future time, no person will ever again be elected President of the United States for more than two terms. The amendment, which became law after being ratified by 36 state legislatures, prohibits third terms for persons elected to the Presidency. It also prevents a second election for anyone, such as a former Vice President, who has served more than two years of his predecessor's term in office.

President Truman is not affected by the amendment. He has been elected



WHO, the World Health Organization—an agency of the United Nations, has set up laboratories in its London headquarters to study the tiny virus that is responsible for influenza. The scientists hope to find a vaccine effective against this disease, which has afflicted unusually large numbers of people in England and the United States this winter.

once to the Presidency and has served almost all of the late Franklin Roosevelt's fourth term. Nevertheless, the amendment specifically exempted the President who might be in office when the law was ratified.

## Spring Training

The baseball season is just around the corner! Already, in the south and west, the big leaguers are limbering up their arms and legs and sharpening their batting eyes in preparation for the pennant races which get under way in April.

Ten big-league teams are working out in Florida, including the 1950 National League pennant winners, the Philadelphia Phillies. Four clubs are in California. Two, including the world-champion New York Yankees, are limbering up in Arizona.

## Encouraging Signs

Lately there have been a number of encouraging signs in the struggle between Communist and western nations. Here are a few of them:

UN forces continue their fine showing in Korea. They have strengthened their territorial position, and have taken an extremely heavy toll of enemy lives.

Even the Chinese Communist leaders now admit that rebel forces within their country are causing serious trouble. This problem has grown worse with the Chinese reversals in Korea.

Reports from Communist-controlled

countries say that criticism of Stalin and his policies is spreading rapidly.

Walter Lippmann, prominent American writer on public affairs, believes that Russia may now realize the failure of her policies in trying to expand in Europe, and may withdraw her forces from eastern Germany and perhaps elsewhere.

While it would be a mistake to become overconfident, these developments, together with the growing split among Italian Communists, make the picture considerably brighter than it was a few weeks ago.

## Progress Report

Have you wondered what progress our nation is making in carrying out its "Point Four" program of helping underdeveloped nations? In a recent report, government officials explained that America's world-wide aid program is gathering speed in many parts of the globe.

Projects already started, under Point Four, range from rebuilding an ancient irrigation system in Ceylon, to searching for strategic minerals in Brazil. Over 100 improvement programs are already under way or have been given the "go ahead" signal by the government. More are being planned every month.

The largest projects now in progress are in Brazil, Iran and Liberia. Americans are helping Brazilians to make a vast survey of their country, mapping out deposits of iron ore, manganese, and other minerals vitally needed for defense. In another field, the citizens of South America's largest nation are being taught how to improve their children's health.

A \$500,000 education program is under way in Iran. Special schools are being set up to give instructions in health, farming, and other useful subjects. Meanwhile, technicians are mapping out a national road system in Liberia, to help this African country build badly needed highways.

Among other nations being helped by the Point Four program are these:

**Paraguay.** American experts are aiding local officials to set up a national health service.

**Mexico.** Industrial leaders are showing the Mexicans how to increase production in their factories.

**Saudi Arabia.** Surveys of underground water supplies are being made

in the large desert areas of Arabia.

**Ceylon.** An irrigation project and some airports are under construction in this island nation.

## Draft Boards

Most young men in the 18-25 age group have already become acquainted with their draft boards, either by registering or being drafted. Who are the members of local draft boards and how do they select youths for military duty?

There are about 3,600 boards throughout the country, run by local citizens who volunteer for duty without pay. Each member must be approved by Selective Service Headquarters. Then he or she is recommended by the governor and appointed by the President, although lower officials actually perform these duties.

It is the job of a draft board to "classify" the men who have registered, according to their availability for military service. It must decide whether or not individual students, those who claim they have essential jobs, and other groups have a right to be deferred from duty.

Special meetings are usually held one or more evenings a week to decide on individual cases. Each decision made must be reached by a majority of the board members. A special appeal agent, who sits in on the meetings, can ask for the review by draft headquarters of "doubtful" cases.

## Voice of the Schools

The students of more than 60 schools in Long Island, New York, are enjoying radio programs put on the air by their classmates. All the work involved in running station WSHS, at Sewanhaka High School in Floral Park, is done by students of nearby schools under the supervision of teachers. Even much of the mechanical equipment of the station was set up and is operated by the boys and girls.

Special feature programs are produced by students who are interested in radio careers. They learn to act out radio plays, write the scripts, and also how to run the technical works of the radio station.

Then too, there are regular school programs. Some 25,000 grade and

high school pupils listen to special educational programs daily over their classroom radios. Six out of ten programs are given for the elementary and junior high grades—history, science, and numerous other subjects are brought over the air.

High school students have programs in many fields of study and in vocational guidance. A popular feature is one called "Choosing Your Life's Work," which discusses job opportunities in various walks of life.

## General Ridgway

The name of Lieutenant General Matthew Ridgway is closely linked with the good news we have been hearing from the Korean front in recent weeks. The "Fighting General," as he is sometimes called, heads the United Nations armies in Korea, under General MacArthur. Ridgway has been widely praised for successfully "hammering" back repeated Communist onslaughts.

General Ridgway, who is now 56 years old, has spent most of his life in the Army. The son of a Colonel, he moved from one Army post to another in his early years. He graduated from West Point, then helped train American troops for duty in World War II.

During the last war, his division (the 82nd Airborne Division which was formed from an infantry group) won wide attention for spectacular exploits. Ridgway directed the first major night airborne assault of the war, when Sicily was invaded in 1943. A year later, he parachuted, along with his men, during the attack on Normandy and other parts of the German-held continent of Europe.

General Ridgway was appointed to head the UN forces in Korea last December, after the former commanding General, Walton Walker, was killed.

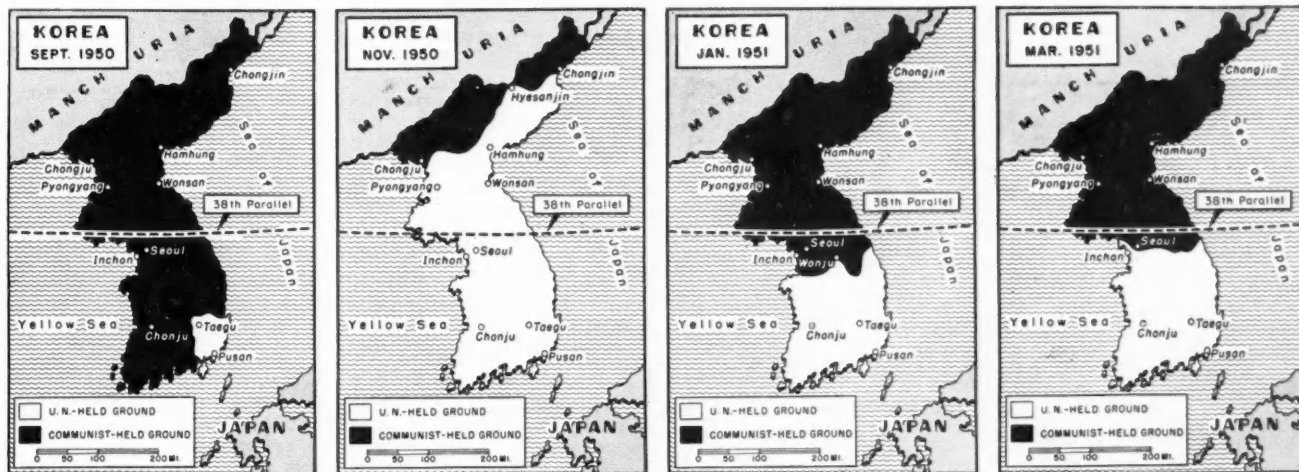
## Should RFC Close Down?

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) has received more space in the nation's press during the last month than it had for a number of years prior to this time. Its lending activities have been investigated and attacked by Congress. Members of the executive branch of the government and of Congress have been



SPRING TRAINING has begun for baseball's major league teams. At Clearwater, Florida, members of the Philadelphia Phillies jog around the field to warm up.





THESE FOUR MAPS show how control of large areas of Korea has shifted back and forth between UN and enemy forces since the conflict began last June

accused of using their influence to obtain RFC loans for their personal or political friends. Furthermore, persons with good RFC connections have received money and expensive gifts from certain firms seeking loans from this agency.

Now, the big question is this: Should the RFC be reorganized, or should it be abolished?

Those who feel that the RFC should be closed down entirely point out that it was established in the 1930 depression years to help business concerns which were worthy of assistance but which could not obtain loans from local banks. Today, it is contended, local banks are in a position to lend money to any business or industry which can prove itself sound. Consequently, the argument continues, the RFC serves no useful purpose, and the best solution is to do away with it completely.

In reply, it is argued that this agency may be of real help in lending money to businesses and industries engaged in the production of war goods. The RFC should be reorganized and closely watched, according to this point of view, but it should continue to operate at least until the present emergency period is over.

### Japanese Treaty

A peace treaty for Japan has been recently outlined by John Foster Dulles, adviser to the State Department, after a month-long tour of the Far East. The American official discussed peace proposals with leaders in Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and the Philippines.

The treaty plan, which is being studied by Britain and Russia, as well as by other nations, permits Japan to rearm for self-protection. It does not seek heavy reparations (payments to countries damaged by attacks during war). Furthermore, though this country hopes Japan will continue its democratic government, this is not required by the treaty.

To help protect a lightly armed Japan, the United States agrees to sign a defense treaty with that country, under which American troops would stay there even after a peace treaty is signed. Other Pacific nations are also being invited to join this defense system.

Though no agreement is expected

with the Russians on a peace treaty for Japan, this country and other nations hope to settle the issue with or without Soviet cooperation as soon as possible.

### Trouble in France

France has been having serious difficulty in the past few weeks in keeping a premier in office as the executive head of government.

Premier Rene Pleven quit on February 28, after only 7½ months in office. Pleven was active in speeding up the pace of French defense building. He vigorously supported the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and he recently visited President Truman in Washington to talk over American-French cooperation.

There was some fear, at first, that Pleven's resignation might result in a weakening of the French defense program. This seemed unlikely, however. Pleven quit because of a dispute with the French legislature over a local issue, that of modernizing France's election system. The legis-

lature had supported Pleven on international issues and, so far as could be seen early in March, France would keep right on with her plans for armament and a new, strong army—no matter who might become premier.

The Pleven resignation did serve to emphasize political difficulties in France, however. That country's prime ministers must have the support of the legislature to stay in office. However, France has so many parties—a dozen or more—that one party almost never holds a real majority in the legislature. So, to keep in office, a premier must work with several parties.

Because of the difficulties of working with several parties in coalition governments, premiers of France have found it hard to stay in office. Pleven's government was the ninth that France has had since 1947.

### Labor Complaints

How could the row between labor leaders and mobilization chiefs have been averted? Certain political ob-

servers believe the dispute would not have arisen if President Truman had appointed Maurice Tobin, Secretary of Labor, to a top defense job. It is pointed out that union leaders have confidence in Tobin, whereas they feel that Charles Wilson, Defense Mobilization head, and his assistants often use "high-handed methods when dealing with labor questions."

Critics of the labor leaders argue that one or two new appointments will not satisfy union demands. Labor wants to control the entire defense setup for its own benefit, these people charge.

### Correction

An error was made in the article on the French Revolution published in the issue of this paper for February 19. The article stated that Louis XVI was beheaded in 1791. Actually, the king lost his throne for a time in 1791, but he was not guillotined until 1793, after the First Republic had been established. THE AMERICAN OBSERVER regrets the error.

## Other News Developments in Brief

According to the latest available figures, about 51,000 American soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen have died, been wounded, or are missing as a result of the Korean war. Three generals are included among the casualties. General William Dean has been missing since early in the war; General Walton Walker was killed last December in a jeep accident; General Bryant Moore died last month in an air mishap. ★ ★ ★

Peace is a word that has been emphasized in Russia during recent weeks. Newspapers throughout the country have been repeating over and over again that the Soviet government wants peace and is doing everything it can to maintain it. This campaign may be just another attempt to convince the Russian people that the U. S. is the "real aggressor" in the world today, or, more hopefully, it may be a change of plans to condition the people for peace instead of war. ★ ★ ★

Housewives are stepping into the price picture. According to reports from various parts of the country, meat

is piling up in butcher shops and coffee is selling slowly because Mrs. America balks at paying the high prices. There has been no nation-wide buyer's strike but prices have fallen in some areas. ★ ★ ★

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, a federal agency that keeps tab on the costs of living, reports that those costs are higher in Washington, D. C., and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, than in other American cities. A family of four needs \$3,926 a year to live at all well in the nation's capital, and \$3,933 in Milwaukee. Of the 34 cities studied, it is estimated that four-person families can live more cheaply in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Mobile, Alabama, than in any other cities—\$3,453 in New Orleans and \$3,507 in Mobile. ★ ★ ★

Taxpayers' mistakes cost the federal government 1½ billion dollars a year, according to one official. The mistakes, he thinks, are innocently made, for the most part, but the losses result, just the same. The Bureau of Internal Revenue, the agency that collects the taxes, wants Congress to give it more money

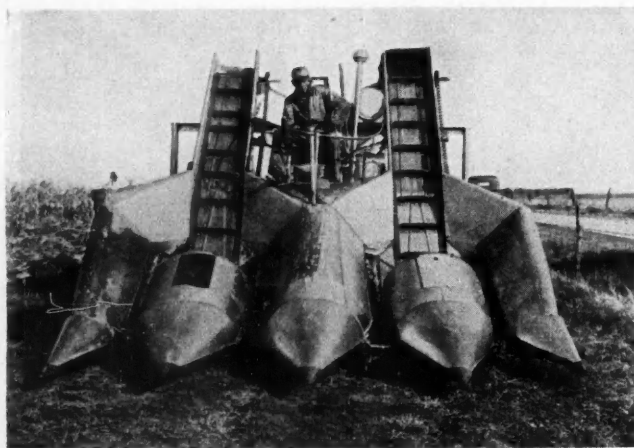
to hire experts who can track down the errors. The bureau estimates that \$20 are collected for each \$1 spent in going over tax returns to check for mistakes. ★ ★ ★

A short time ago, 43 legislators of India's 324-member parliament sent a special message of friendship to the U. S. Congress. The Indian lawmakers told this country that they support us in the struggle against communism, and asked for close cooperation with us. ★ ★ ★

The Soviet Union charges that the United States, France, and Britain have boosted the number of men under arms to twice that of Russia's "2¼-million-man army." The Soviet statement is questionable because:

(1) There is no way to check Russia's troop strength (a number of observers place it at 4 million); (2) Soviet figures do not include the huge armies of China and the satellites, but they combine forces of three western powers.

The truth of this matter could easily be determined if Russia, along with other countries, would permit UN inspection of national military forces.



MACHINES, such as this one which picks corn from four rows at a time, are helping the farmers produce increasing quantities of food

## Farm Prices

(Concluded from page 1)

panies, such firms can often remedy surpluses and the resulting low prices. They can cut production, so that surpluses will tend to disappear.

The farming business, however, is different. The nation has millions of farm owners, and each one's output accounts for so small a portion of the total crop that his individual actions have practically no effect on the overall market. He sees no reason to cut production, for doing so would merely reduce his own income. Thus, even when much more is raised on the nation's farms than can be sold, farmers may continue to pile up surpluses which drive prices lower and lower.

This is what was happening in the United States, even before the great depression of the 1930's came along. That period of hard times made farm conditions still worse. In 1933, wheat sold for about 30 cents a bushel, in comparison with present prices of approximately \$2.40 a bushel. Prices of other farm items were about as bad or worse.

It was generally felt that something had to be done to remedy the situation. Agricultural distress was hurting the entire nation. Farmers, with almost no money to spend, couldn't purchase the machinery and equipment they needed. Some couldn't even buy enough clothing for their families. This fact meant a loss for all the manufacturers and merchants who needed the farmers as customers. It meant unemployment for large numbers of factory workers.

### Government Action

Beginning in 1933, the government made an effort to boost agricultural prices by cutting surpluses. Shortly after Franklin D. Roosevelt became President, there was established a program under which farmers who reduced their output were given payments from the federal Treasury. In some cases, crops that had already been planted were destroyed.

These methods were widely criticized. Opponents protested against destroying food. Many city people objected to the higher taxes made necessary by the farm payments.

Supporters of this program, while admitting it was not ideal, insisted that it was the best way of dealing with a very bad situation. The majority in Congress agreed with this

point of view, and the crop-reduction plan was carried out.

Either as a result of it or for other reasons, agricultural prices did rise and farmers received higher incomes. There were still farm surpluses during most of the 1930's however, and the problem of "over-production" continued to be studied and debated throughout the nation.

As a result of their hard times over a long period of years, many farmers became disillusioned. They reached the conclusion that their life was too difficult and insecure. Those who felt this way encouraged their sons to prepare for city jobs rather than to stay on farms.

The migration of young people from farms to cities worried the nation's lawmakers. Many of them formed the opinion that the government must take action to make farm life more attractive and secure.

In 1938, Congress decided upon a new agricultural assistance plan which, with a few changes, is still in effect. Under its terms, government officials say to the nation's farmers:

"We have made a lengthy study of what you have earned over a number of years as compared to what city people have earned. From our study, we think we have worked out a fair measurement of the prices you should receive for your products as compared to the incomes received by other groups of the population. We feel that your earnings should be on a 'parity' (basis of equality) with theirs.

"The government is going to do everything it can to help you achieve parity prices for your products. These prices will differ from month to month, and year to year, depending upon your cost of living and upon the incomes being received by city people. We shall make regular reports as to the prices you should be getting for your products.

"At times when you are not getting parity prices, we shall assist you in several ways. In some cases, we shall buy your products at higher prices than you could get on the open market, and then it will be our responsibility to sell these commodities for whatever prices we can get. In other cases, we shall make payments or loans to you, enabling you to withhold your produce from market until you can get a favorable price for it.

"While we cannot promise you full parity prices at all times for your products, we will guarantee you financial assistance when you are not get-

ting these prices. Furthermore, we shall do everything within our power to boost farm prices which are below the parity level."

Called a farm price-support or parity program, this plan, like earlier farm measures, was severely attacked. Critics contended that it showed favoritism to one group of our population, and they said the cost of the plan would place a heavy burden on the nation's taxpayers.

Supporters, while agreeing that it was not a perfect solution of the problem, argued that it was an essential measure. After all, they maintained, the nation must have food to survive, and thus the nation's farmer's must be made secure.

During a large part of World War II, the government did not have to pay out much money for supporting farm prices at parity levels. There was such a heavy demand for all kinds of agricultural products during the conflict that prices of most of them rose above parity. In fact, the government had to keep food costs under control, just as it did in the case of industrial prices and wages.

Several years after the war ended, however, the demand for farm products again decreased. Prices of many of these products went down considerably. The government once more began paying out large sums of money in an effort to push prices up to the parity levels. While the government helped the farmers a great deal, it was unable to give them full parity prices for their products. Meanwhile, industrial and city incomes were rising rather steadily.

### War Again

Then came the Korean war in June of last summer. Farm prices immediately joined those of practically all other goods in an upward climb. The demand for nearly every kind of product greatly increased, causing prices to move upward. As a result, labor unions began to insist on higher wages for their members.

In the attempt to check the soaring cost of living and to prevent serious inflation, Congress passed a price-wage control law in September. This measure gave President Truman and his administrative helpers the power to put limits, or "ceilings," on prices and wages.

The law specifically states, however, that the price of a farm item cannot be frozen until it reaches parity. The prices of quite a few farm products—including wheat, potatoes, and dairy

goods—are still below that level. Consequently, they cannot be controlled as yet, so farm prices and food costs are still rising.

Officials in charge of the price-wage control program have a hard job on their hands. It is difficult for them to try to keep down wages when city workers are complaining that their food costs continue to go up.

The government is permitting industrial wages to rise as much as 10 per cent, but labor unions say this is not enough to take care of the price boosts which have been made in recent months and which are still being made by farmers, industrialists, and businessmen. The union leaders argue as follows:

"When businessmen and industrialists knew that price controls were going into effect, they greatly increased their prices. Food costs have also soared in recent months, and are still going up. The workers are not getting a fair break. The parity law protects the farmers, and the price-and-wage control program is controlled by businessmen and industrialists. Labor is left out in the cold."

Here is what farm leaders have to say in reply:

"Labor's complaint against us is unjustified. After World War II, farm prices went down while wages and industrial profits went up. We are just now beginning to catch up, and city people are being unfair and unsportsmanlike to criticize us.

"There is a tendency to give farmers all the blame for increased grocery costs. The fact is that businessmen who process, pack, and transport food have a great deal to do with the price of groceries.

"If farm prices are allowed to reach parity, nobody is going to suffer greatly. In such a case, it is estimated that consumer food costs would rise less than five per cent."

These are the conflicting arguments which must be considered by the President and his price-and-wage control officials, by Congress, and by the American people.

Congress must decide whether or not to permit farm prices to be frozen before they reach parity levels.

The President must decide whether he has given labor leaders fair representation in the agency which controls prices and wages.

The American people must decide who they think is right in this controversy and use their influence accordingly.



THESE HOLSTEINS are not concerned with rising prices—but many consumers are



## Science News

A blight is now threatening to destroy the chestnut trees in Switzerland and Italy, and it may spread to other European lands. It is the same plant disease which wiped out American chestnut trees several years ago. This would be a serious blow to Europe's economy—particularly in Italy where the chestnut wood is used for making barrels and baskets, and the nuts are an important crop for export.

Italian officials are working with ECA experts in a project to raise a blight-resistant variety of chestnut tree developed in the United States. More than 100,000 trees are now being grown in Italian nurseries.

The United States Coast Guard is again making ready to patrol the waters of the North Atlantic. Each year at this time, the glaciers start splitting off into icebergs in the seas around Greenland and south to Newfoundland. The big chunks of ice drift down to the North Atlantic sea lanes, endangering ships.

Warning vessels of the icebergs is the job of the International Ice Patrol, run by our Coast Guard, and paid for by all the nations using the shipping lanes. Ever since the liner Titanic was sunk by an iceberg in 1912, with a loss of 1,500 lives, the patrol has guarded the North Atlantic during the spring thaw.

Three Coast Guard vessels and two long-range planes will be on duty this year. From now until the danger is over, the patrol ships will chart the courses of the bergs and warn all vessels which approach them. The boats have radar equipment to detect the ice in fog and darkness.

Years ago, a number of graceful birds called cahows lived along the coasts of Bermuda. In the 1620's the island was struck by a famine in which the settlers were forced to eat the cahows and their eggs. For 325 years after that there was no trace of the birds. In fact, natural scientists thought they were extinct.

Recently, however, five of the gull-like birds were captured on a small island near Bermuda. After banding and photographing, the birds were set free. Next fall another study will be made of the rare birds.

The cahow is about the size of a pigeon and spends most of its time on the water. Very often it will fly 125 miles out to sea and return to its nest late at night with food for its young.

The United States Air Force is now experimenting with two kinds of artificial furs which may be used in trimming and lining the hoods, flight jackets, and caps worn by soldiers on Arctic duty. The man-made furs are nylon, mounted on cotton which has been treated with rubber. One of them will replace wolf fur, the other the mouton which has been used in making Arctic clothing.

The Air Force states that the nylon furs are softer and wear longer than real furs. The synthetic furs are easier to work with, too, than natural furs which must be sewed together. Nylon furs may be cut in any size or shape desired. Since nylon doesn't absorb moisture readily, frost may be brushed off the synthetic furs.

—By HAZEL L. ELDRIDGE.



TEHRAN, Iran's capital, is modern, but the country's rural areas are undeveloped

## Iran Has Many Needs

Shah of the Middle Eastern Country Is Working to Bring a Better Life to the Nation's 17 Million People

IRAN'S shah (or king) has made foreign headlines on several occasions in recent weeks. Two gifts that he made to his people were widely publicized, and so was his marriage last month to the daughter of a tribal chieftain. The shah—Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, by name—appears determined to do everything he can to improve conditions in his country.

A short time before his wedding, the royal ruler, in his first gift, announced that he would sell a large part of his vast estates to the people who work for him. The money paid him for the land would be used to help the farmers modernize their farms.

The second gift was made at the time of the shah's marriage. Instead of having the week-long celebration that usually accompanies a royal wedding, the shah decreed a short ceremony. The food that would have been used in a longer one was distributed among Iran's poor.

Since he became his country's ruler in 1941, the shah has been increasingly concerned with improving living standards in Iran. The large majority of his people cultivate land that is owned by a few wealthy families. Working with the most primitive of tools, they produce very little, and half of that goes to the landlords.

As a result most of Iran's 17 million people live in dire poverty. Their diet is a meager one and they suffer constantly from diseases that grow out of malnutrition. Very few people, about one in every 20, can read and write. Except in the cities, they have none of the modern conveniences—running water, electricity, sanitary facilities.

In contrast to the people's poverty, Iran is fairly rich in natural resources. It has deposits of coal, copper, lead, iron, manganese, zinc, and borax, though most of these have not yet been developed. The country's soil is fertile but the dry climate limits successful farming to areas that are irrigated. In the north are forests.

Iran's great wealth is in her oil. Today, the country ranks fourth

among the oil-producing nations of the world, and there are vast reserves.

Everywhere, except in the oil centers, modernization is Iran's greatest need. In the farming areas, irrigation systems should be brought up to date and new tools must be used. Railroads and highways must be built if commerce is to flourish. Factories, to allow the Iranians to manufacture goods for which they have the raw materials, should be constructed.

Modernization requires money, of course, and it requires an educated population that is willing to work hard to improve its lot. This is one reason why the shah's recent announcement about his estates was so important. The young ruler hopes that, through owning their farms, the people will want to work hard and improve their farming methods.

A third motive that prompted the shah's generosity arises from the threat of communism. Iran's oil and its strategic location make the area a prize that Russia covets. Since the end of World War II, Soviet leaders have worked through the Iranian Communist Party to stir up unrest. The shah knows that poverty encourages people to turn to communism and he wants to avoid having his subjects accept Soviet doctrines.

Oil and Iran's location also account for our own country's interest in the Middle Eastern nation. Much of Iran's oil is now going to western Europe. There it helps build civilian and military strength for the benefit of the western world. So long as Iran is friendly to the west and remains free of Russian control, its central location strengthens our position in the Middle East.



DRAWN FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

## Study Guide

### Farm Prices

1. What was the situation relative to farmers' incomes during the 1920's?
2. What happened to farm prices during the depression of the 1930's?
3. What was done in 1933 in the effort to boost agricultural prices?
4. Describe the parity program undertaken for the farmers in 1938.
5. What happened to farm prices in the years immediately following the close of World War II? What happened to industrial wages then?
6. When, according to the present price-control law, can farm prices be frozen?
7. What arguments are given in favor of stricter controls for farm prices?
8. What is said in opposition to such controls?

### Discussion

1. Who, in your opinion, is more nearly right in their views on wage-price controls—the city workers or the farmers?
2. Do you think drastic action should be taken immediately to keep wages and prices from continuing to rise, or should concessions be made from time to time to different groups in our population? Discuss.

### Sweden

1. What is Sweden's relation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization?
2. What are that country's feelings toward communism?
3. When did Sweden begin to develop a doctrine of neutrality?
4. List some of the country's important resources and manufactured products.
5. Do the Swedes have a high or low standard of living?
6. Describe the ways in which Swedish life resembles ours.
7. How did Sweden help the countries that were fighting Germany during World War II? What were her relations with the Nazis during the war?

### Discussion

1. Do you or do you not think that Sweden is wise in trying to follow a neutral policy today? Give reasons for your answer.
2. What, if anything, do you think the United States might do to strengthen its ties with Sweden? Explain.

### Miscellaneous

1. How does the newly adopted 22nd Amendment affect future Presidents?
2. List a number of encouraging signs in the struggle between Communist and western nations.
3. Where are projects already in progress under the "Point Four" program?
4. Describe the duties of a local draft board.
5. Compare customs of an early Congress with those followed by the nation's lawmakers today.
6. Give the arguments for and against the abolishment of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.
7. What are some of the provisions of the peace treaty proposed for Japan?

### References

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- "The Farm Outlook," *Newsweek*, March 5, 1951.
- "Sweden—a Study in Neutrality," by R. Daniell, *New York Times Magazine*, June 5, 1949.
- "Is Sweden's Planned Prosperity Real?" *Business Week*, July 2, 1949.

### Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (c) possible conclusions; 2. (a) very important; 3. (d) carefully; 4. (b) an opponent; 5. (c) false or misleading; 6. (b) capable; 7. (d) sneeringly distrustful; 8. (c) increase; 9. (b) lived at the same time; 10. (a) describes.

### Pronunciations

Mohammad Reza Pahlavi—mō-hahm' mud rē'zūh pah-lah-vē'  
Tāge Erlander—tah'gē ār-lahn'der

# Career for Tomorrow

## The Good Employee

**W**HAT makes a good employee? Probably no two employers would answer this question in the same way. One wants workers who wait for instructions. Another wants subordinates who go ahead on their own. A third likes employees who make suggestions; a fourth does not.

Behind these differences, though, are definite characteristics associated with "bad" employees and others that come to mind when we think of "good" employees.

First, there is the matter of *technical qualifications*. Good employees are well equipped for their work. Mechanics know the intricacies of motors. Good secretaries know typing, shorthand, spelling, and grammar. Bad employees have few of these skills, and they are not willing to learn them.

Second come *personal appearance and habits*. Good employees are punctual, neat, and courteous—not only when the boss is around but also when they are dealing with co-workers and with the public. They are dependable and honest. They keep their desks, their tool chests, their drawing boards in order. They leave their personal troubles at home and they don't gossip while on the job. Bad employees may fall down on any one of these points.

*Attitudes* make up a third group of characteristics that distinguish good employees from bad. A poor worker, for instance, may have a chip on his shoulder. He may do the work the way the boss wants it done, but he resents being given directions. When he himself makes a suggestion, he

sulks if it is not followed. He is constantly quarreling about his work or the way he is to do it.

The bad employee may also be one who thinks he can revolutionize the business overnight. Even though his firm has run successfully for years, he finds fault with everything that is done. Tactlessly he barges ahead, campaigning for his reforms. Actually, his ideas may be sound, but he fails because of his impatient, critical attitude.

Or, the poor employee may have an attitude of "I don't care about the business, just give me my pay." He does only the work he thinks his salary covers. He may also have the feeling of "let the boss do it." "Let the boss drum up the extra business," he says, "let him take care of the annoying details. Why should I bother?"

Another attitude that marks the poor employee is that of trying to get ahead at others' expense. Every worker, of course, should be ambitious, but no one should run over his co-workers in his zeal for promotions.

Good employees have entirely different attitudes. They needn't "yes" the boss at every turn, but they try to please him and see his point of view. They contribute ideas without getting angry when a suggestion is not adopted. They look for ways to improve the business, but they wait for opportune moments in which to make their ideas known.

Good employees, as well as the poor ones, are interested in salary and they don't want to be underpaid. Instead



WILL SHE be a good employee?

EWING GALLAGHER

of harping on income, though, they take on extra duties and stay past quitting time, when necessary, without always expecting extra compensation. (Nine times out of ten they're the ones who get the raises.)

In further contrast to the poor employee, the good worker tries to relieve his employer of as many details as possible; he spends part of his leisure time to improve his skills and help the firm within reasonable limits.

This discussion doesn't mean that an employee should accept any kind of treatment from his employer. Every worker wants a job where he can use his best efforts and be well paid for doing so. If one place of business doesn't offer such opportunities, the good employee looks for other openings instead of staying on indefinitely and letting himself become irritable and quarrelsome.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

## Your Vocabulary

For each sentence below, tell which answer best explains the meaning of the italicized word. Correct answers are on page 7, column 4.

1. The report leads to several *inferences* (in'-fer-ns-es). (a) serious mistakes (b) secret hideouts (c) possible conclusions (d) minor errors.

2. A *momentous* (mō-mēn'tūs) decision is (a) very important (b) unimportant (c) made quickly (d) wrong.

3. The evidence was *scrupulously* (skrōō'pū-lūs-li) examined. (a) quickly (b) frequently (c) carelessly (d) carefully.

4. An *antagonist* (ān-tāg'ō-nist) is (a) an expert on insects (b) an opponent (c) a person who favors abolishing the government (d) an ally.

5. A *fallacious* (fā-lā'shūs) idea is (a) complicated (b) probably correct (c) false or misleading (d) unquestionably true.

6. A *competent* (kōm'pē-tēnt) person is (a) destructive (b) capable (c) ambitious (d) unintelligent.

7. A *cynical* (sin'ī-kāl) person is (a) wicked (b) usually very busy (c) always cheerful (d) sneeringly distrustful.

8. This situation will *augment* (awg-mēnt') their troubles. (a) end (b) slightly lessen (c) increase (d) not affect.

9. Two men who were *contemporaries* (kōn-tēmp'ō-rēr'ēz) (a) were enemies (b) lived at the same time (c) were friends (d) were equally famous.

10. The book *depicts* (dē-pīk'ts') conditions in Russia. (a) describes (b) finds fault with (c) praises (d) does not mention.

**Republic.** This is the term used to describe a nation that is governed by elected representatives of the people. It comes from the Latin words *res*, meaning "thing" or "affair," and *publicus*, meaning "public."

women legislators in the House of Representatives and one woman Senator, Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine.

The amount of work done by Congress has increased greatly since 1789. There were only 268 bills introduced in the first Congress, but now the number of bills presented to each Congress may total more than 15,000. As our nation has grown in size and importance, the legislators' burdens have increased.

## Historical Backgrounds - - U. S. Congress

**C**ONGRESS has been meeting this year in newly decorated quarters. Both the House and the Senate have been renovated. The remodeling, which cost about 5 million dollars, represents the Capitol's first full-scale overhauling in more than 90 years.

The Senate chamber has a new stainless steel ceiling with "a million tiny holes." The ceiling and the fabric covering on seats in the gallery improve acoustics, so that speeches may be heard easily. The House chamber has also been redesigned and redecorated. Air conditioning in both chambers has been improved.

A few congressmen dislike the modern decorations that have been added, but they do seem to appreciate the new seats and other comforts they now have. Certainly, they are able to work under far more pleasant conditions than in 1800, when the Capitol, a much smaller structure than the present one, was first ready for occupancy. Congressmen then, and for many years thereafter, complained that the heating was bad, that the seats were hard, and that the lighting was unsatisfactory.

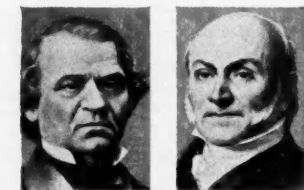
In addition to changes which have taken place in the Capitol building, the legislative habits and practices of our lawmakers have changed in many respects since the early days of the nation.

When Congress, in 1789, held its first session in New York City, there were only 22 Senators and 59 Representatives present. Two states, Rhode

Island and North Carolina, had not yet ratified the Constitution and were not represented in Congress.

Today there are 96 members in the Senate (two from each state) and 435 representatives in the House, as well as three non-voting representatives, one each from Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

Members of the first Congress were paid only six dollars a day while Congress was in session. Most of the lawmakers lived in rooming houses



PHOTOS FROM LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
ANDREW JOHNSON (left) and John Quincy Adams are the only U. S. Presidents to serve in Congress after completing their terms in the White House

and ate their meals at various taverns in the vicinity. Today the salary of a member of Congress is \$12,500 a year, plus an additional sum for traveling and office expenses.

During the early sessions of Congress, the members of the House of Representatives wore their hats during the sessions. They adopted this custom from the House of Commons in England where members wore their hats to show their independence of

the King. But our legislators abandoned this practice more than 100 years ago.

The Constitution requires that senators be at least 30 years of age, but three men have been elected to the Senate at the age of 29. In 1806, Henry Clay took the oath of office as senator from Kentucky five months before his 30th birthday. More recently, in 1935, Rush Holt of West Virginia was elected to the Senate at the age of 29. Russell Long of Louisiana was also elected to the Senate at the age of 29. Both Holt and Long waited to take the oath of office until they were 30.

Debates in Congress have sometimes been dull and at other times have been very exciting. The members are usually very courteous toward one another, but in time of crisis the debates become heated. There have been occasions when fist fights have taken place on the floor of Congress. Just before the Civil War, when the slavery controversy was at its height, some members of Congress carried pistols for self-protection.

For more than 100 years after the adoption of the Constitution, there were no women members of Congress. In most states women were not allowed to vote or hold office. But in 1917, Jeannette Rankin of Montana was elected to the House of Representatives, the first congresswoman in our history. Since that time, many other women have taken their places in Congress. At present there are eight